

## TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



EIGHT MONTHS

R&G Paddock Stands (front and rear) £169.99 for both

# 'Both wheels up and totally secure, too'

Tested by Gareth Evans for more than eight months

My only issue with these incredibly solidly built (and somewhat pricey) paddock stands is that it took a real shove to get the two constituent metal tubes with plastic bungs to push together before using them. They come flat-packed in two parts and to make the finished item you see here I needed to put all of my bodyweight towards pushing the two bits together.

Once I'd figured that out they became an absolute joy to have in the garage, and the Triumph Trident 660 has spent most of its stationary moments up in the air. Sure, it's useful for chain maintenance and the fitment of parts, but it also takes up less space

than a bike on a sidestand, and I reckon it looks bloody cool too.

The black powder-coated finish has lasted well with no marks at all after the best part of year of use on my concrete garage floor, and I find the stands easy to place on the Triumph-provided cotton reels at the back, while the front pins locate beautifully under the forks.

Quality ★★★★★  
Value ★★★☆☆  
[www.rg-racing.com](http://www.rg-racing.com)

### PROS & CONS

- + Rugged, stable and easy to locate on the bike
- Not cheap and they take a bit of force to assemble



Both wheels off the deck and it's all stable



Knox Aegis 9 back protector £139.99

## 'Ultimate protection at a reasonable price'

Tested by Ben Clarke for 2000 miles /six months



I have been using this CE Level 2 back protector coupled with an additional CE Level 1 Micro-Lock chest protector (£39.99) on road

and track and I cannot find a single thing to complain about. The interlocking plate design of the back protector allows it to flex with your spine so that you retain a full range of motion.

It fastens securely around the kidneys and has a set of braces over the top to make sure it doesn't slide down inside your leathers. If, like me, your leathers have mysteriously shrunk during coronavirus, you will notice the added bulk of the protector and you may struggle to fit it under a very snug suit. The chest protector attaches simply to the braces with Velcro and is held in place inside your suit. Even on a roasting hot trackday this summer I didn't feel any hotter than I would anyway in leathers as the kit is all vented to allow air flow. For the quality and the peace of mind, I think the price is entirely reasonable.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★  
[www.planet-knox.com](http://www.planet-knox.com)

2000 MILES

## Spada Shadow £59.99

Tested by Dan Sutherland for 1000 miles/five months

These are light, well-finished and come with knuckle protection and a visor wipe. The cuff is just long enough to tuck over tight jackets and thin enough to tuck into the sleeves of others, too. Unfortunately, they did let themselves down during a three-day ride of the Scottish NC500. Heavy rain left my hands soaked. Whether this was water entering from the cuff, or leaks elsewhere is unclear.

Quality ★★★★★  
Value ★★★★★

[spadaclimbing.co.uk](http://spadaclimbing.co.uk)

